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January 17, 2002

Renata Hesse, Trial Attorney
Antitrust Division
U.S. Department of Justice
601 D Street N.W., Suite 1200
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Renata Hesse:

My letter is for the public commentary portion of the settlement phase in *U.S. vs. Microsoft*. As an educator in a Sioux Falls college, one reason I support the settlement is it offers a chance to improve education in South Dakota's and the nation's poorest school districts by bringing IT equipment, software and support to them. This will create a ladder to those who've been trapped in the IT access gap, and give these children the tools they will need to continue their education in our state's colleges.

I also support the proposed settlement largely because it puts an end to an antitrust suit which has not shown consumers have been harmed by Microsoft, and because it has found answers to the issues which were found to be important by the federal court system. Additionally, when a case of this size and importance has been running for four years with all of the resources brought into it, I think you can safely assume that all valid issues have been brought to light and all questions have been answered satisfactorily. Apparently the U.S. Department of Justice thinks so, as do half of the state attorneys general who brought the case.

Our own state did not join this antitrust action. Our Attorney General felt it lacked enough merit to warrant using our state's limited financial resources to pursue it. I think he was right. Considering there are much more important and pressing matters before the Department of Justice, I think it's time to call this matter resolved and settled.

Thank you for your attention to my letter.

Sincerely,

Kip Scott

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